

REMARKS

Rejected claims 24-31 have been cancelled, claim 5 has been amended and new dependent claims 32 and 33 have been added. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-6, 11, 12, 23, 32 and 33 will be pending in the application.

Claim Interpretation

Applicant confirms that the Examiner's interpretation of the term "non-saponified fatty acid-based active ingredient" used in claim 1 as referring to a fatty acid-based active ingredient comprising a mixture of pelargonic acid *per se*, capric acid *per se* and lauric acid *per se*.

Allowed Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 1-6, 11-12, and 23.

Claim Amendments

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's helpful suggestions set forth in the Office action regarding claims 5 and 23 and proposed new claims 32, 34 and 35.

Claim 5 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

New dependent claims 32 and 33 have been added and are directed to compositions wherein the fatty acid-based active ingredient comprises a mixture of the sodium salts of pelargonic acid, capric acid and lauric acid (claim 32) or a mixture of the potassium salts of pelargonic acid, capric acid and lauric acid (claim 33).

Support for the amended and new claims may be found in the specification, for example, at pages 5 and 6, original claim 8 and Formulation A used in Example 1.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent M. Keil". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'V' and 'K'.

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